

Inside Chess

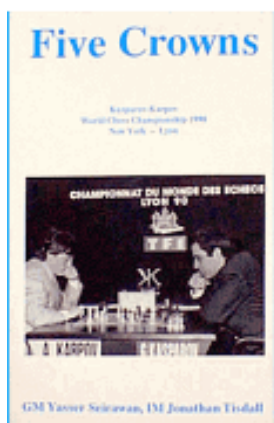
Yasser Seirawan

Yasser Annotates:

Karpov-Anand
Wijk aan Zee 1998
Round 8

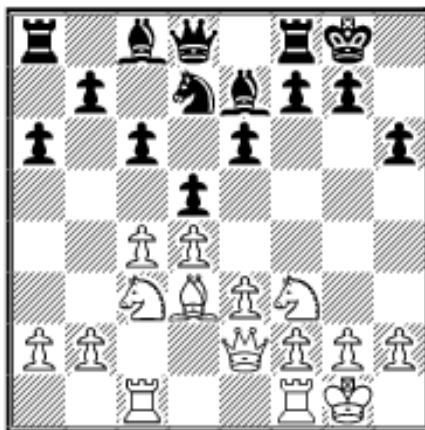
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1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bxf6 Qxf6 7.e3 Nd7
8.Rc1 Qd8!? 9.Bd3 Be7 10.O-O O-O 11.Qe2 a6



12.Bb1?!

A wasted move. White may not have much but 12.e4, 12.Rfd1, 12.a4!? and 12.c5!? were all superior to the text.

12...f5!

Transposing to a Dutch stonewall where the minor piece trade has helped Black.

13.Ne1?! Bd6 14.c5 Bc7 15.f4

White is fishing to equalize the game. I prefer Black's position because he has the breaks, ...g7-g5 or ...b7-b6 with the long term aim of utilizing the two Bishops. White has a problem which seems to be inherent in Stonewall formations; for some reason the break g2-g4 doesn't carry the same impact as Black's Kingside break. While b4-b5 which gains space will not necessarily energize his pieces.

**15...Nf6 16.Bd3 Bd7 17.Qd1 g5! 18.g3 Rf7 19.Rc2 Rg7 20.Rg2 Qe7
21.Be2 Kh8**



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Black has a number of pleasant options. 21...g4 with the idea of running the h-pawn might not be enough in the long term as after a likely ...h4xg3, h2xg3 it will be hard to cash in on the position. Think about what fate ...g5-g4 would be in store for Black's light squared Bishop. Which brings up the idea of 21...Be8 planning, ...Be8-g6 hoping to play ...Bg6-h5 one day. Another idea is 21...h5 playing for ...h5-h4 without

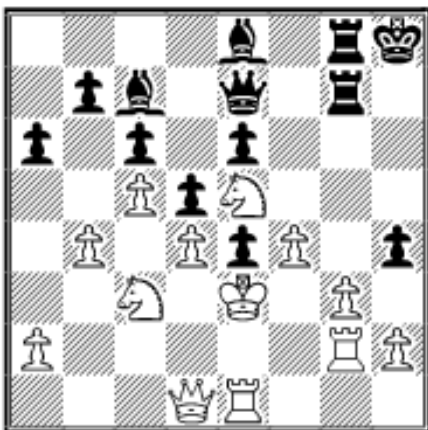
...g5-g4 in order to open up more files and diagonals. While 21...b6!? 22.b4 (22.cxb6 Bxb6 23.Na4 and Nd3 might be to discouraging!) a5 23.a3 axb4 24.axb4 bxc5 25.bxc5 Ba5 in order to win control of the e4-square. Are all possible plans. By the text, Anand prepares ...Ra8-g8 going for the bum's rush with the h-pawn.

As for White's prospects... What to say? He has nothing to look forward to and so tries to disrupt Black's buildup as best he can. I think White's best is to play b2-b4 and route his e1-Knight to e5 as quickly as possible. Karpov gets on the track.

22.Qb3?! Rb8 23.Nd3 Be8! 24.Qd1 Bf7 25.Ne5 Rbg8 26.Bf3 Be8 27.b4 h5! 28.Re1?!

Since the opening, White has been without a plan. With things heating up on the Kingside it was time to make the evacuation 28.Kf2 planning Rf1-g1 and a sprint to the center. The text tosses away a tempo.

28...h4 29.Kf2 gxf4 30.exf4 Ne4+ 31.Bxe4 fxe4 32.Ke3



An awkward move. But 32.g4 Rf8 (32...h3!? 33.Rg3 Qh4) 33.Qd2 Qg5 is bad news for White.

32...a5!

An excellent rejoinder. White's King is not allowed safety either on the Queenside or center. The text is designed to soften up the c5-pawn in order to make ...Bc7xe5 a powerful threat. Black felt that he had more than

32...hxg3 33.Rh1! Qh4 34.Ne2 With count chances. So Black makes a feint on the Queenside to distract White's pieces.

33.a3 axb4 34.axb4 b6 35.Na4 b5?

I don't understand this one. The concept of pulling White's Knight away from the center has worked. After 35...hxg3! 36.cxb6 Qh4! 37.Rh1 Bh5! 38.Qe1 Qh3 39.Rxg3 Rxg3+ 40.hxg3 Rxg3+ Black wins. White must continue 41.Qxg3 (41.Kd2 Rg2+ 42.Kc1 Qa3+ mates a couple of moves.) Qxg3+ 42.Kd2 Qg2+ 43.Kc3 Qxh1 44.bxc7 Qa1+ 45.Nb2 Qa6 wins. The text kicks White's offside Knight back into the game.

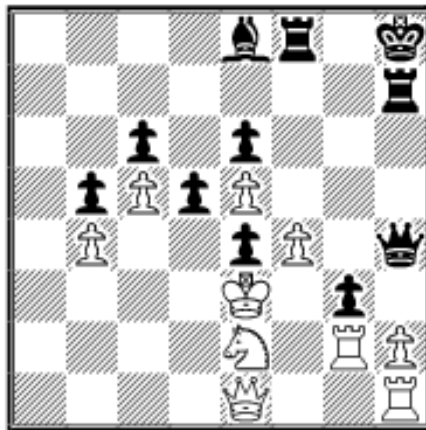
36.Nc3 hxg3 37.Rh1 Qh4 38.Ne2!

Despite Karpov's critical time pressure he finds the only move to stay alive.

38...Rh7 39.Qg1! Rf8 40.Qe1!

The final move of time control and a good one. After 40.Rxg3? Bh5! Preparing ...Bc7xe5, White would be lost. Winning the game has become much more difficult as White threatens Qe1xg3 holding his position together.

40...Bxe5 41.dxe5



Following the time control, a rather unsteady position has resulted. Black's connected passed center pawns are not a factor as they are blockaded. Indeed it isn't easy to see what Black should do. After 41...Bh5? 42.hxg3 Qg4 43.Nd4 Rxf4 44.gxf4 Qxg2 45.Qh4 the tables are quickly turned. Neither can Black be pleased by 41...gxh2 42.Qxh4 Rxh4 43.Rgxh2 Rxh2 44.Rxh2+ Kg7 45.Nd4 Which gives White a powerful Knight in the center.

Vishy comes up with quite a shot.

41...d4+!

Not your every day position! Black gives up his magnificent center to expose White's King.

42.Kxd4

Forced as 42.Kxe4?? Bg6+ 43.Kxd4 Qd8+ 44.Kc3 Qd3+ will soon mate on the a-file.

42...Bh5!?

An intriguing follow-up. Vishy hopes for a variation like 43.Rxg3 Bf3

44.Rhg1 Qd8+ 45.Kc3 Rxd2 When Black's pieces are beginning to rev. Even so a tempting alternative was 42...Qd8+ 43.Kc3 Qd3+ 44.Kb2 e3 45.hxg3 Bg6 with excellent play.

43.hxg3 Qg4

A vicious move as Black threatens ...Qg4-f3 and a mate on the d-file.

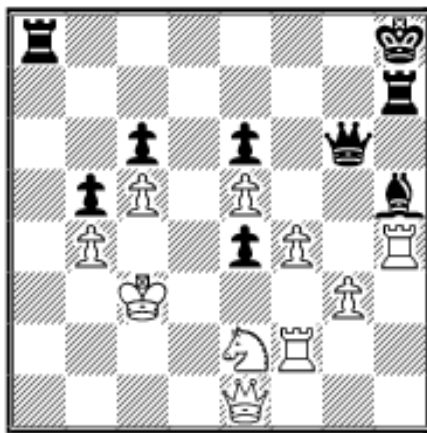
44.Rf2?

An understandable mistake as Karpov tries to cover the f3-square. He would like to play 44.Rxd5 and continue with Kd4xe4 in order to rescue his King, but 44...Qf3! Forces checkmate. White had to try 44.Ng1 Rd8+ (44...Rxf4 45.Rh4 e3+ 46.gxf4 Qxg2 47.Kxe3 and White holds.) 45.Kc3 Rd1 46.Qxe4 Rc1+ 47.Kb2 Qd1 (47...Rc4!?) 48.Rxd5 Rxd5 49.Qg6 when White in this line is able to bail out with a perpetual.

44...Ra8!!

An excellent move as Black threatens ...Ra8-a3 snaring White's King in the middle of the board. Earlier thoughts of an ending are thrown out of the window as White is in a battle to save his skin.

45.Rh4 Qg6 46.Kc3



Trying to sprint to safety but its too late. There is no answer to the a-file.

46...Ra2?

The natural reaction as Black has been trying to keep White's King "up" the board. Sometimes I'm just amazed that "natural moves" are indeed errors. Without carrying the baggage of his previous analysis, Vishy wouldn't

have any problem finding: 46...e3! 47.Rfh2? (47.Rxd5 is forced but also loses.) 47...Ra3+ 48.Kb2 Ra2+! 49.Kc3 Qc2+ 50.Kd4 Rd7+ 51.Kxe3 Qd3+ 52.Kf2 Rxe2+ winning. The text gives White just enough time to counter along the h-file.

47.Rfh2! Rxe2

Played with a heavy heart as the draw is now unavoidable. Black can't play for the win as 47...e3? 48.Nd4 Rxd4 49.Rxd4 is now good for White.

48.Rxe2 Bxe2 49.Rxd7 Kxd7 50.Qxe2 Qxg3 51.Kd4 Qxf4 52.Qh5+!

Perhaps Vishy was hoping for the cooperative 52.Qxe4+? Qxe4+ 53.Kxe4 Kg6 with an easy win in the King and pawn ending.

52...Kg7 53.Qe8 e3+ 54.Kd3 Qf5+ 55.Kxe3 Qxe5+ 56.Kd3 Qd5+ 57.Ke3 Kf6 58.Qf8 Kg5 59.Qg7 Kh5 60.Qf7 Kg5 ½-½

A fine battle but I'm sure Vishy is getting annoyed with himself for watching Karpov slip the net yet again.

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